

THE
REPORT
AND
ORDER

Thereupon, made concerning

The Coal-Meters,
AND THEIR
Deputies or Under-Meters.



LONDON:

Printed by John Barber, Printer to the Honourable City of
LONDON, 1714.

THE
REPORT
AND
ORDER
OF THE
COMMISSIONERS
OF THE
LANDS
AND
REVENUE
IN
RESPONSE
TO A
RESOLUTION
OF THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
PASSED
ON THE 11TH
MAY 1870
RELATIVE
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RELATIVE
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AND
REVENUE



LONDON:
Printed by John B. ...
1871

Stanier



Mayor.

*Martis xvj^o die Martij 1713. Annoq; Regni
Reginæ A N N Æ Magnæ Britannia, &c.
Decimo tertio.*

This Day Sir *William Ashburst*, Sir *Thomas Abney*, and
Sir *John Parsons*, Kts. and Aldermen, did deliver into
this Court a Report in Writing, under their Hands,
concerning the Coal-meters of this City, and their
Deputies or Under-meters; the Tenor whereof here-
after followeth, that is to say,

*To the Right Hon^{ble} the Lord Mayor and Court
of Aldermen.*

IN Obedience to Two Orders of this Court, dated the
Twenty third of *February*, One thousand seven hundred and
thirteen, and the Ninth of *March* Instant, We whose Names
are subscribed, have considered the Complaint of *Original
Imms* and *Thomas Townsend*, two of the First Men belonging to
the Coal-meters Office, and of *Humphrey Cowell* an Under-meter
to the said Office; and also the Petitions of *Thomas Buttry*, *Thomas
Bunce*, *William Canning*, *Nathaniel Freeman* and *William Gable*, other
Under-meters of the said Office, against the Master-coal-meters
of this City, touching their removing the said Complainants, and
the Authority the said Master-coal-meters pretend to exercise
over the said Under-meters of Coals.

We find that the Mayor and Commonalty of this City have
had time out of Mind the Office of Measurer of Coals, which

Office has been usually exercised by their Officers and Ministers called Sea-coal-meters, who were admitted and sworn before the Lord Mayor and Court of Aldermen.

And by an Act of Common-Council 24 *Hen.* 8. It is directed how the Lord Mayor should dispose the Office of Measurage to be yearly executed, with Proviso to pay yearly into the Chamber of *London* such Sums as were then answered for the same.

By an Act of Common-Council 44 *Eliz.* It is Enacted (*inter alia*) That every of the said Officers, *viz.* The Sea-coal-meters shall from time to time, upon Presentment of any honest Freeman for his Deputy to the Lord Mayor for the time being, have him admitted and sworn his Deputy: In which said Act there is a Proviso, That if the Master-meters or their Deputies misdeemean themselves in their Offices, that they shall be punished by the Court of Aldermen, and the Offence of the Deputies shall not prejudice the Master-meters.

And by an Act 18 *Jac.* 1. in the Mayoralty of Sir *William Cockaine*, It is ordain'd, That no Deputy-corn-meters, Coal-meters or Salt-meters or Corn-fillers should be thereafter received, admitted, or allowed by any Master-corn-meter, Coal-meter, or Salt-meter, or Corn filler, or Salt-filler, but only such as should be of the Fellowship or Brotherhood of Fellowship-Porters; And by the said Act the said Meters are to call upon the Rulers of the said Fellowship to appoint them Men for the said Work: And it is also by the said Act ordain'd, That the said Company, and all the Members thereof, shall be subject to all such Ordinances and Rules as shall be from time to time made and set down by the Court of Lord Mayor, and Aldermen of this City, in the Council-Chamber of this City, for the good Government of the Men of the said Fellowship, under such reasonable Pains, Penalties and Forfeitures as the said Court shall limit and appoint.

And we do also find, That the Government of the said Fellowship hath been exercised by the Alderman of *Billingsgate*-Ward, subject to the Direction and Controul of this Honourable Court.

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But we do find, that by an Act of Common Council made the Third of *March*, One thousand six hundred fifty and three, before Sir *Thomas Viner*, Lord Mayor, reciting, That whereas the Hearing of sundry Offences and Disorders in the said Society or Fellowship committed by the Members thereof, were by former Acts and Orders committed to the Alderman and Deputy of the Ward of *Billingsgate* by them to be determined. It was therefore thereby Enacted, That the Rulers and Assistants should hear Complaints; Provided, that if any Person found himself aggrieved, that then such Person might appeal from the said Rulers and Assistants to the Alderman or his Deputy, who in such Case were to hear and determine the same as formerly, any thing in the said Act to the contrary notwithstanding.

Then

Then we proceeded to Examine the Complaint contained in the said several Petitions, and to consider whether this Court had Jurisdiction to determine the same, and in order to give this Honourable Court Satisfaction therein;

The Master-coal-meters had Notice to produce before us the Books of their Office, and also the Orders which had been made by the said Master-meters or their Predecessors, touching the Way and Method of Employing the said Deputy-meters, or touching their dismissing or removing the said Deputies or Under-meters.

But the said Master-coal-meters came before Us, and refusing to give Us Satisfaction therein, read a Paper to Us, importing, That the sole Right of Placing, Displacing, Suspending or Removing the said Deputies or Under-meters was absolutely in themselves, and that they had insisted on the said Right before this Honourable Court, and that this Court could not determine the said Right, and that they did not think it reasonable to produce their said Books, or that this Committee should draw a Report grounded upon the Matters contained in the same.

Upon which We did proceed to Examine the Allegations of the said Petitions; And in order to find whether the Complaints therein were well grounded, We thought it necessary to Examine into the Constitution of the said Coal-meters Office, that we might enable our selves to give this Court the Satisfaction they expected from Us.

We find therefore, That the Office of Coal-meter is executed by the Fifteen Deputies or Sea-coal-meters, who are the Officers and Ministers of this City, for that purpose appointed, and are admitted to the said Office by this Honourable Court, and each of the said Coal-meters is to have, hold, exercise and enjoy the same Place, with all Fees, Profits and Commodities thereunto, and of Right belonging by himself or his sufficient Deputy or Deputies, being Freemen of this City, and first to be liked and allowed of by the Court of Lord Mayor and Aldermen, and at the Time of their Admission do take an Oath to the Form and Effect following, viz:

Vide Affidavit, Num. 1.

YOU shall Swear that you shall indifferently measure all Coals that to you belongeth for to measure; and just measure you shall give to every Person, as well to Poor as to Rich, without Partiality Shewing or Favour; And you shall buy no Coals but to your own Use, and in no wise for to utter or sell again as long as you shall stand in your Office. Also you shall take no more for your Labour for the Meting or Measuring of Coals, but as of old Time it hath been ordained and used. Also you shall make no Deputy for to Mete any Coals; but if you bring the same Deputy before the Mayor for the Time being, there to be Sworn duly and truly for to Occupy the same Office.

We do also find, that the said Fifteen Coal-meters have the Management of the said Coal-Office, and the Care and Inspection over the just Weight and Measure of Coals properly belongs to them, and they ought (as their Predecessors anciently did) to be diligent in searching and viewing the Weight and Metage of Coals, and inspect and oversee the Behaviour of the Under-meters therein.

And we do find, that for carrying on the Work and Duty of the Coal-Office, which is of too large Extent to be manag'd by Fifteen Persons, there are appointed several Deputies or Under-meters, upon whom the Care and Trust of weighing and measuring Coals does principally depend, whose Business it is to attend each Coal-ship, and observe the due weight and admeasure-ment of Coals to Top the Vatts, to take an Account of the Coals measured, and to make a due Return thereof in Writing to the Coal-Office; by which Return, or Certificate of the Under meters the Duties on Coals are Collected, and for this their Labour and Trouble they anciently receiv'd the Fee of One Penny *per* Chaldron for all Coals measured, and Two Pence *per* Ton for all Coals weighed; And the said Under-meters are admitted to the said Office and Sworn in the Outer Court, whose Oath is to the Tenor or Effect following, *viz.*

YOU shall Swear that you shall indifferently measure all Coals that to you belongeth for to measure, and just Measure you shall give to every Person, as well to Poor as Rich, without Partiality Shewing or Favour, and you shall buy no Coals but to your own Use, and in no wise for to utter or sell again as long as you shall stand in your Office; And you shall take no more for your Labour for the measuring and meting of Coals, but as of old Time it hath been ordained and used. As God help you.

*Affidavit,
Num. 1.*

But because the said Master-meters in Contempt of the Order of this Court have refused to produce their Books, and the ancient Orders of the said Office, We proceeded to take the Examinations of Mr. *West* and Mr. *Oxwicke*, two ancient Master-coal-meters who have long since resign'd their said Places, and also Examined several ancient Persons, who have known the said Coal-Office, and the Constitution thereof, for Forty Years last past; And we find, that when any Master-meter was admitted to his Place, the Orders and Rules of the said Coal-Office were at his first entring into the said Office laid before him, and he requir'd to act and proceed by those Rules and Orders which were to the Effect following, *viz.*

I. Each of the said Fifteen Masters had Four Deputies or Under-meters appointed to his Number, call'd *First-men*, *Second-men*, *Third-men* and *Fourth-men*; For that the said Deputies or Under-meters were divided into four Numbers or Classes, and being Sixty in Number, were appointed Fifteen to each Number or Class.

II. It

II. It was the constant Course to Ship the Under-meters according to their Number and Seniority, and the Senior has a Right to be Shipped before his Junior, and a Senior-mate returning from Duty was usually Shipped again before his Junior, but the Ships of *Scotch Coals*, as also Ships call'd *Cochells* and *Remnants*, were not given according to Number and Seniority.

III. The Master-meters usually attended the Coal-Office by turns, *viz.* one to each Day, who attended the said Office upon the Penalty of half a Crown; And if a Master-meter did not attend by Eight a-Clock in the Summer, and by Nine in Winter, the said half Crown was forfeited to the Master-meter who did first attend; and the said Master-meters punctually observed the Method of Shipping according to Seniority, save that the Master in waiting had the Privilege to employ his own Deputy first, and then began again at the Prior Numbers.

IV. If any Under-meter took a Ship out of Turn, he was oblig'd to refund the Metage-money to the Person whose Turn it was to have deliver'd such Ship.

V. Besides the said Deputy, Under meters or Place-men, there were sworn and admitted certain Persons call'd Supernumeraries, or Men at large, which were usually Thirty in Number, who were also employ'd according to Seniority, if present, but were not permitted to work in Coals if a Place-man was ready to take his Turn; and the said Men at large had a Right, according to Seniority, to succeed in the Vacancies of Place-men.

VI. When a Place-man was Sick or Superannuated, he had his Turn and Course of Business as before, and another Under-meter (usually a Man at large, if a Place-man refused) was oblig'd to deliver such Ship for part of the Metage-money.

VII. When any Place-man died, his Widow was allow'd Two or Three Ships, or more (according to her Circumstances) to be worked at Half-pay.

VIII. The said Master-meters did never heretofore pretend to a Right of Suspending, Punishing, or Removing any Under-meter at their own arbitrary Will and Pleasure, without a sufficient Cause to be allow'd by the Alderman or Deputy of the Ward, and acquainting them therewith; Though sometimes the said Master-meters have taken upon themselves, upon just Complaint, to suspend a Meter from his Work, till the first *Thursday* in the Month, at which time the Master-meters usually held a General Meeting in the Office, and then heard the said Complaint: But if the Under-meters accused desir'd it, the said Complaint was remitted to the Alderman or his Deputy, to whose Determination all Parties submitted.

IX. When any Under-meter had committed a Misdemeanour 'twas usual to Amerce him Half a Crown, which was put into a Poor's Box, and when no Ships were employ'd, 'twas usual to send some Supply thereout to a Sick Under meter, by Five or Ten Shillings at a time.

X. When

X. When an Under-meter was appointed to go on a Country Voyage to *Gravesend* or elsewhere, a Senior had Liberty to refuse such Turn, and a Junior or Man at large was oblig'd to go and deliver such Ship, and such Senior so refusing his Turn, was oblig'd to give Five Shillings out of his own Purse to such Meter who undertook such Voyage, and such Under-meter had also Five Shillings more from the *Crimp* over and above his Metage-money.

Which said Orders and Rules we think very Good and Reasonable, and if observed, would prevent much Confusion and Trouble in attending the Duty of the Coal-Office, and every Person concern'd would know when to give due and proper Attendance; and the Under-meters would not have any Strife or Debate amongst themselves about their proper Precedency.

But we understand, that the said Master-meters have made divers Innovations in the Method of Governing the said Office, and do allow their Clerk, *Stephen Wickens*, for Money and Bribes to Ship the Under-meters out of their course of Seniority; and the said *Stephen Wickens* has by various Methods extorted many and large Sums of Money from the Under-meters, who for the most part are very poor Men; and the said *Wickens* does demand and exact Sacks of Coals, and divers Guineas, sometimes more, sometimes less, from the Under-meters, to permit them to take their Turns of Removal in the Four Classes or Numbers; and particularly he demanded of *Robert Rymill* Five Guineas, to admit him to the Place of First-man (which he pretended was usual) and the said *Rymill* compounded with him for Three Guineas, and a Treat of Eight Shillings. And the better to compass the said Wicked Purposes, the Master-meters cause the *Crimps* and *Masters* of Ships to pay the Metage-money into the Office (which was usually Collected by the Under-meters); and the said *Wickens* does deduct what Sums he pleases out of the Mony coming to the Under-meters, for their Share of the said Metage-money, when they shew themselves unwilling to give him any Thing; And when the Under-meters have complained thereof to the Master-meters, they have justified their said Clerk, commanding the said Under-meters to give him divers Sums of Money, Coals, and other Goods (tho' the said Clerk has no Right to any such Gratuity); and particularly *Joseph Kirby* pleading with the said Master-meters, that he was Poor, having had about Twenty Children, and that he could not give the said *Wickens* a Guinea demanded of him, they the said Master-meters order'd he should pay the said Guinea at twice, and accordingly the same was deducted out of his Metage. And one *John Tasker* has paid the said *Wickens* at several times, upwards of Fifteen Pounds, besides several other Exactions particularly proved before Us, and too many here to Enumerate; and for further Satisfaction do refer this Honourable Court to the Affidavits hereunto annexed, which are Eighteen in Number.

Affidavit,
Num. 2.

Affidavit,
Num. 5.

Affidavit,
Num. 3.

Affidavit,
Num. 5.

And

And having let our selves into the Examination of the said Particulars grounded on the Petitions referred to us, we were naturally lead into the Examination of fundry other Particulars relating to the Coal-Office, and we do find that the said Office is much out of Order, and needs great Regulation, and that for want of such Regulation the Citizens of this City, and other Her Majesty's Subjects are much defrauded in the Measure of their Coals, for

When any Meter is appointed to deliver a Ship, if the Master of the Ship don't like the Meter (which commonly proceeds from his Faithfulness) the said *Wickens* will take the Under-meter from his Work, and appoint another in his stead, which is contrary to the Act of Common-Council, which appoints, that when any Man hath begun a piece of Work he shall not leave it. *Affidavit, Num. 13, 14.*

And after a Vatt is filled, the Ship's Crew will often sweep off great Quantities of Coals, and the Under-meter taking Notice thereof is often in danger of his Life for so doing, of which Complaints have been divers times made at the Coal-Office, and particularly *Robert Karrington* having complained of such a Practice to Sir *Samuel Ongley* a Master-meter, he the said Sir *Samuel* abused the said *Karrington*, and told him 'twas not the said *Karrington's* Business to find any Fault, if the Lighterman found none. *Affidavit, Num. 15.*

We think it proper to take Notice, because the same is mention'd in the Petition of the said *Imms* and *Townsend*, That the Master-meters do continue very much to oppress the Under-meters, because they will not Discharge the Master-meters of a great Sum of Money due to them for an Allowance given them by the Crown for the Metage of Coals, which by several Orders of the Treasury and Custom-House (which have been produced before us) the said Master-meters have received for their Use; and 'tis computed there is upwards of One hundred and Twenty Pounds apiece due to the said *Imms* and *Townsend* on that Account, but the said Master-meters sent them Fifty Shillings apiece, by the Hands of *William Watson* their Clerk; and because the said *Imms* and *Townsend* would not accept the same, they were threaten'd by the said *Watson*, that they should be deprived of the Privilege of a Superannuated Under-meter, and no Man suffer'd to work for them, which the said Master-meters have perform'd accordingly. *Affidavit, Num. 6, 7.*

And we think proper to take Notice on this Occasion, because it will tend highly to the Dishonour of the Government of this City, if no Notice should be taken thereof. That *William Fox* another poor Under-meter who was Bedrid, and *Non Compos Mentis* for some Years before he dyed, had his Hand guided to a Paper, whereby for Fifty Shillings he gave a full Discharge to the Master-meters, when 'tis supposed there is One hundred and twenty Pounds due to him out of the Crown Allowance. *Affidavit, Num. 8.*

We are therefore humbly of Opinion, That the said ancient Order and Method of the Coal-Office ought to be observed and

kept, and that it is incumbent on the Alderman of *Billinggate* Ward to see the same perform'd.

And that as well the said Master-meters as the said Under-meters are liable to be punish'd by Suspension, Removal or otherwise, as this Court shall think fit.

That the said Master-meters have no Right to employ what Deputies or Under-meters they please; But that it is the Right of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen to allow or disallow of the Deputies or Under-meters, and that no other ought to be employ'd but such as they allow.

That the said Deputies or Under-meters ought not to be displaced but upon a reasonable Cause, and that upon Application to the Lord Mayor and Aldermen for that Purpose, but the Alderman of the said Ward may suspend an Under-meter till the Pleasure of this Court be known therein.

That the Master-meters have suspended or removed the Petitioners, and divers others of the said Under-meters, and have not restor'd any of them; save that since the Exhibiting the said Petition of *Imms* and *Townsend* to this Honourable Court, they have permitted one Ship apiece to be Work'd for them the said *Imms* and *Townsend* at half Pay, and the said Under-meters have been remov'd without just Cause, and upon very frivolous Occasions, particularly *Nathaniel Freeman* was suspended or removed, because about two Years before that Time he had Indicted one *Robert Cooke* a Master of a Coal-ship, for assaulting him in the Execution of his Office.

That the Petitioners having duly prov'd the Allegations of their said several Petitions ought to be reliev'd therein according to the Discretion of this Honourable Court.

That the Petitioners ought to have Satisfaction for the Loss of their Labour from such Persons as have perform'd the same in their Place and Stead.

That the Books of the Coal-Office do concern the Right of the Inheritance of this City, and ought to be used and inspected by this Court as they shall find occasion, and that the City does intrust the Custody of the ancient Books of the said Office with the said Master-meters, for the better Management of the said Office only; and the said Books are of a publick Nature, in regard the same do contain the Account of the Importation of Coals, in which many Persons have Interest; and in regard this City has no other way to inspect the Account of the Orphan's Duty belonging to this City, all Persons who have an Interest in the said Importation ought to have the Satisfaction of viewing the said Books, and to have recourse to the same (when their Occasions require) and the said Master-meters in refusing to produce the said Books of the Office before this Committee, are guilty of a great Misdemeanour and Contempt to this Honourable Court.

And

And we also think proper to acquaint this Court, That no Under-meter ought to begin to Work in Coals before a *Cocket* of *Permit* has been issued from the Lord Mayor's Office. But the said Under-meters do frequently (by Order of *Wickens*) begin to deliver Ships before the said *Cocket* issues as it ought to do: And we find, that anciently when a *Permit* was issued from the *Cocket-Office*, the Number of the Class to which such Ship belong'd was indorsed on the said *Cocket* at the *Cocket-Office*. *Affidavit*,
Num. 17.

And we are also of Opinion, That it will be agreeable to the Justice of this City, and the Laws of the Land, that the said *Stephen Wickens* should be exemplarily Punish'd for his Exactions and Offences aforesaid. *Affidavit*,
Num. 5.

And that 'tis proper it should be recommended from this Court to the Common-Council of this City, that an Oath be administered to the Clerk or Clerks of the Coal-Office for the Time being, for due Observance of the Orders and Constitutions of the said Coal-Office.

All which our Doings and Proceedings, We humbly submit to the grave Wisdom and Consideration of this Honourable Court; Dated this Sixteenth Day of *March*, One thousand seven hundred and thirteen.

William Ashhurst.

John Parsons.

Thomas Abney.

WHich Report being here Read, is well liked and approved by this Court, and Order'd to be enter'd into the *Reportory*. And it is thereupon Order'd, That the said Master-meters do observe the ancient Method and Usage of Shipping their Under-meters according to their Seniority, and that they Restore such Under-meters to their Offices, as have been Dismiss'd or Suspended from them, since the Difference happen'd between the said Deputies, and the said Master-meters about the Crown's Allowance.

And that all Under meters be order'd to Work according to the usual and ancient Method set forth in the said Report, and not to take their Fellows Labour out of their Turns, by Pretence of any Order of the Master-meters or their Clerk.

And that upon any Complaint against them for so doing, they shall be suspended from their Labour by the Alderman of *Billinggate* Ward, for the Time being, or his Deputy, until they shall appear before this Court to answer any such Complaint, who will punish all Offenders in the Premises amongst the said Under-meters by Dismissing them, not only from their Places as Under-meters, but from all Labour in the Fellowship of *Billinggate* Porters.

And it is further Order'd, That a Copy of the said Report and Order thereupon made be sent to the Alderman of *Billinggate* Ward,

Ward, or in his Absence to his Deputy, to the End such Directions may be given to the Rulers and Assistants of the said Fellowship-Porters for their Observance thereof, as shall be requisite; As also that another Copy be left for the said Master-coal-meters at their Office, whose Obedience and Conformity to the same is requir'd and enjoyn'd by this Court.

GIBSON.

Here follow the Affidavits, to which the foregoing R E P O R T doth refer.

Num. 1.

GEorge West, Citizen and Embroiderer of London, maketh Oath, That on or about the Eighth of October, 1677. this Deponent was admitted to the Place and Office of a Master-meter of Coals in the Port of London, and this Deponent continu'd in the said Office about 13 Years, and during that time was well acquainted with the Constitution of the said Office; and this Deponent after he was admitted and Sworn before the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, waited on the other Master-meters the next Day, and then read the Orders of the Office to the Purport hereafter-mention'd; and the said Master-meters told this Deponent the same were the Orders and Constitution of the said Office, and that this Deponent must not Ship the Under-meters out of Course, and this Deponent saith, that each of the Fifteen Master-meters had Four Deputies or Under-meters appointed to his Number called First-men, Second-men, Third-men and Fourth-men; and this Deponent saith it was the constant Usage in this Deponent's Time (and this Deponent has heard the said Usage was many Years before his Time) that each of the Place-men was Shipped according to his Number and Seniority, and 'twas the constant Course for a Senior Under-meter (if present) to take his Turn and Course before a Junior, and a Senior Mate returning from Duty was usually Shipped again before his Junior; and this Deponent saith, that it was the constant Usage and Course for the Masters to attend at the Coal-Office by Turns, viz. One to each Day, who attended their said Turn upon the Penalty of Half a Crown; and if any Master-meter whose Turn it was to attend did not come by Eight a-Clock in Summer, and by Nine in Winter, the said Half-Crown was forfeited to the Master-meter, who first attended; and this Deponent saith, the said Usage of Shipping Under-meters according to Seniority was punctually observ'd by the said Master-meters, save that the Master-meter in waiting, began with his own Number, and then went back to the Prior Numbers; and this Deponent well remembers, that Thomas Scott taking a Ship out of his Turn and Course, he was oblig'd to permit the Person whose Turn he had taken to receive the Metage Allowance due to an Under-meter; and this Deponent saith, that besides the said four Numbers of Place-men, there were employ'd certain Persons call'd Men at large, which (to this Deponent's Remembrance) were about Thirty in Number or thereabouts, who were likewise employ'd according to Seniority, if present, but were not permitted to Work in Coals, if a Place-

a Place-man was ready to take his Turn, but the Ships of Scotch Coals were not given according to Number and Seniority; and if an Under-meter was to go on a Country Voyage to Gravesend or elsewhere, a Senior had Liberty to refuse such Turn, and a Junior, or Man at large was oblig'd to go and deliver such Ship, and such Senior so refusing his Turn was oblig'd to give five Shillings out of his own Purse to such Meter who undertook such Voyage, and such Under-meter had also five Shillings more from the Crimp over and above his Metage-money; and this Deponent saith, that when any Place-man was sick or superannuated 'twas the constant Practise to allow another Under-meter to Work in his Turn at part Pay, and if a Place-man would take the said Work he was allow'd to do it before a Man at large, and when any Coal-meter dy'd his Widow was allow'd two or three Ships or more (according to her Circumstances) to be Work'd at Half-pay; and this Deponent saith, that he never knew or heard, till lately, that the Master-meters ever pretended to a Right of Suspending, Punishing or Removing any Under-meter at their own arbitrary Will and Pleasure, without a sufficient Cause to be allow'd by the Alderman or Deputy of Billingsgate Ward, and acquainting one of them therewith. But this Deponent saith, that sometimes the Master-meters have taken upon themselves upon a just Complaint to suspend a Meter from his Work till the first Thursday in the Month, at which time the Master-meters usually held a General Meeting in their Office, and then heard the said Complaint; and if the Under-meters accused desir'd it, the said Complaint was remitted to the Alderman or Deputy of the Ward, to whose Determination the said Master-meters always submitted; and this Deponent saith, that he never heard or knew, that the Clerk of the Coal-meters Office was allow'd to exact or take any Money or Coals from the Under-meters, but the said Under-meters supplied the Office with Scotch Coals in Winter time, except the Months of January and February, in which Months the Master-meters did not ordinarily attend (unless the first Thursday in February; and this Deponent well remembers, that the Under-meters usually receiv'd the Metage-money, and paid the same into the Office, first deducting their own Share, viz. One Penny per Chaldron, and Two Pence per Ton; and this Deponent saith, that it was usual when an Under-meter had committed a Misdemeanour to make him forfeit half a Crown, which was put into a Poors Box; and when no Ships were in the River to Work for a sick Under-meter, 'twas usual to send some Supply thereof to such sick Under-meter by five or ten Shillings at a time.

Jurat. 9 die Martij, 1713.
Coram me,

George West.

William Ashburst.

RObert Rymell maketh Oath, That ever since the Year 1677. he this Num. 2. Deponent hath been an Under-meter of Coals, and saith, that till lately it hath been the constant Usage to Work according to Class and Seniority, and it hath been usual for the Supernumeraries to Work for the Superannuated and sick Coal-meters at Half-pay; and this Deponent when a young Man did so Work at Half-pay; and this Deponent saith, that

D

Stephen

Stephen Wickens hath exacted Money of this Deponent several Times, besides several Sacks of Coals, and particularly when this Deponent was made First-Man, the said Wickens demanded of this Deponent Five Guineas, telling this Deponent 'twas usual so to do, and this Deponent was oblig'd to compound for Three Guineas and a Treat of Eight Shillings, which this Deponent did give and pay accordingly.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Robert Rymell.

William Ashburst.

Num. 3.

Joseph Kirby maketh Oath, That Stephen Wickens Clerk to the Coal-Office demanded of this Deponent the Sum of Two Guineas for a remove into the Second Class; and this Deponent pleading that he was Poor, the said Wickens threatned he would deduct the same out of the Money that should be due to him from the Coal-Office, and this Deponent complaining thereof to the Master-meters in their Office, and acquainting them that he was Poor, and had had about 20 Children, Mr. Walker told this Deponent he must give the said Wickens half a Guinea at that time, and half a Guinea more out of the next great Ship, and accordingly the said Wickens did stop a Guinea at two several times out of the Money due to this Deponent for the Metage of Coals, and this Deponent did also pay the said Stephen Wickens one Guinea more when he was removed into the First Class.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Joseph Kirby.

William Ashburst.

• Num. 4.

William Knight maketh Oath, That he this Deponent did the last Summer at the Request of the Under-meters several Times attend at the Coal-Office to make a Tender of their Service for the Metage of Coals; and this Deponent well remembers, That there was present one Cornelius Gooseberry, a Master of a Coal-Ship, who complain'd he had attended two or three Days and could not get a Meter, and went into the Office to inform the Master-meters of his said Grievance, and threaten'd to complain to the Lord Mayor; and this Deponent then went into the said Office with Thomas Buttry, Nathaniel Freeman, Edw. Collis, Peter Blazee and James Henningham; and the said Buttry in behalf of himself and the said Under-meters then present, then demanded and offer'd their Labour, and declar'd themselves willing to deliver the said Ship, which then wanted a Meter: But William Sheppard then dismissed the said Supplicants, and told them, They could not be employ'd; and this Deponent then asked the said William Sheppard why they gave the Under-meters so much Trouble in Shipping them out of Number and Course, but the said Sheppard reply'd, They would Ship the said Under-meters as they pleas'd: And at another time the Master of the Linnet of Yarmouth went into the Coal-Office, and came out complaining, That he could not have a Meter, tho' he had attended several

ral Days; upon which this Deponent pointing to Nathaniel Freeman, told the Master of the said Ship, that there was a Meter ready to take his Work, and the said Master was willing to take the said Freeman with him if he would go and deliver the said Ship, and accordingly the said Freeman and this Deponent went on Board the said Linnet; but for want of a Vatt (which this Deponent is inform'd the said Master-meters had locked up, least the Under-meters should take their Turn without consent of the Master-meters) the said Freeman could not deliver the said Ship, upon which this Deponent did hear the Ship's Crew curse and swear, that they were oblig'd to lye in the River and spend their Owners Time and Money for want of a Meter.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

William Ashhurst.

William Knight.

John Tasker, Thomas Wilkin and John Ashwell severally make Num. 5.
Oath, that they have been Under-meters of Coals about 40 Years last past or thereabouts, and are Three of the First-men belonging to the Coal-Office, and that during all the Time they have known the said Office (and for many Years before, as they were inform'd, by the former ancient Under-meters) the Under-meters of the said Coal-Office have been divided into Four Classes or Numbers, commonly call'd First-men, Second-men, Third-men and Fourth-men, and are often stiled Place-men; and these Deponents say, the said Place-men consisted of Sixty Persons, viz. Fifteen to a Number, and it has been the constant Usage (till lately) for the said Place-men to be Employ'd according to their Number and Seniority, and if a First-man had deliver'd a Coal Ship before another was Employ'd, he had right to take his Turn and Course again before a Junior, and in like manner did a Second-man, and a Third-man before a Fourth-man; and these Deponents also say, that the Men at large (which were usually about Thirty in Number, viz. Two to a Class or Number) were usually Employ'd according to Seniority (if present) but were not permitted to be Shipped when a Place-man was ready to take his Turn (except in Scotch Coal, and Ships call'd Cochells and Remnants) and these Deponents say, that when any Place-man was sick or superannuated, it was the constant Course to allow another Under-meter to Work at part Pay; and if a Place-man would take the said Work, he had the Refusal of the same, and when any Coal-meters dyed his Widow was allow'd two or three Ships or more (according to her Circumstances) to be Worked at half Pay, and these Deponents (when young Men) have wrought several Ships as abovementioned at the Rates aforesaid; and these Deponents say, that the Earnings of young Men are usually so inconsiderable as not to be worth Attendance at the Coal-Office, but for the Hopes and Expectation of better Work and Support in their old Age; and this Deponent John Tasker for himself saith, That Stephen Wickens, Clerk of the Coal-Office hath exacted divers Sums of Money and Sacks of Coals from this Deponent, to the Value of Fifteen Pounds at least, and hath often deducted

deducted Money out of this Deponent's Pay, when the Metage-money had been paid into the Coal-Office, and Joseph Speed a Master-meter bid the Deponent Tasker give Wickens a Salmon, or somewhat out of every Ships two or three he Worked; and this Deponent Tasker saith, he was sometime since suspended or removed from his Office of Under-meter, and kept out of his said Place for the Space of a Year, which this Deponent believes in loss of Time and Charges was to his Damage Fifty Pounds: But this Deponent was at length restored to his Place by Sir William Ashhurst Alderman, for that the said Master-meters own'd before him they had no Objection against this Deponent. And this Deponent Thomas Wilkin for himself saith, That he this Deponent having attended two several Days at the Coal-Office, and observing that during that time, Fifty Ships had been serv'd with Meters. This Deponent went into the Coal-Office, and told Wickens the Clerk, that he had observ'd Fifty Ships had been disposed, without Employing this Deponent, whose Right was to have One Ship in Fifteen, but the said Wickens told this Deponent all Power was committed to him, and he would make a Fourth-man a Deputy, and a Deputy a Fourth-man, and the said Wickens compelled this Deponent to Contract, to give him a Shilling out of each Ship he wrought, and did besides frequently deduct out of this Deponent's Labour the odd Pence due to him this Deponent, besides several Sacks of Coals which he oblig'd the Deponent to give him. And this Deponent John Ashwell for himself saith, That the said Wickens hath several Times exacted divers Sums of Money and Coals from this Deponent, and hath often stop'd divers Sums out of this Deponent's Pay due to him for Metage; and Sir Samuel Ongley, one of the Master-meters, bid this Deponent Ashwell give Wickens two Sacks of Coals, for that this Deponent had omitted to send a Sack before that time; and this Deponent John Ashwell further saith, that he remembers some time after his Admittance to be an Under-meter, the Course of Working, according to Seniority was directed by the Cocket-Office, the Number of the Class to which the Discharge or Metage of any Ship belonged, being indorsed on the Back of the Bill or Permit from the said Cocket-Office.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,
William Ashhurst.

John Tasker.
Thomas Wilkin.
John Ashwell.

Num. 6.

RObert Karrington maketh Oath, That he this Deponent being a Coal-meter was appointed to be Meter to a Coal-Ship call'd the Purfleet, and that after the Vatt was filled, one of the Labourers would several times put in his Shovel, and strike off great Quantities of Coals, upon which this Deponent did forbid the Labourer so to do, telling the said Labourer, that this Deponent would stop the Work, and overturn the Vatt, upon which the Master of the said Ship, one Bartholomew Cole did chide with this Deponent, saying he would justify the said Labourer, tho' it should cost an Hundred Pounds if the Deponent stop't the Work, and the said Labourer threaten'd to throw this Deponent over Board, after

after which this Deponent did, together with Thomas Sanfon repair to Mr. Ongley (now Sir Samuel Ongley) to acquaint him with the said Abuse and Fraud, upon which the said Sir Samuel Ongley enquir'd of this Deponent, if the Lighterman found any Fault; but this Deponent acquainted the said Sir Samuel Ongley, that the Lighterman was in the Lighter trimming the Coals, and could not see the said Abuse, and it was not his Business, but the Business of this Deponent; and the said Sir Samuel Ongley then calling this Deponent **Loggerhead**, told this Deponent, 'twas nothing to this Deponent if the Vatt was not half full, so the Lighterman did not find any Fault, what was that to the Deponent.

Jurat. Sexto die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Charles Peers.

Robert Karrington.

ORiginal Imms and Thomas Townsend severally make Oath, That Num. 7.
they these Deponents have been Under-meters of Coals for Thirty or Forty Years, and for Four or Five Years last past have been Aged and Infirm, and during all the Time, they have known the said Office, the Under-meters were divided into Four Classes or Numbers, commonly called, First-men, Second-men, Third-men and Fourth-men, besides Men at large; and these Deponents say, that the said Place-men consisted of Sixty Persons, viz. Fifteen to a Number, and it hath been the constant Usage (till lately) for the said Place-men to be employ'd according to their Number and Seniority; and if a First-man had finish'd a Ship before another was Employ'd, he had Right to take his Turn and Course again before a Junior, and in like manner did a Second man before a Third man, and a Third-man before a Fourth-man; and these Deponents say, that the Men at large were employ'd according to their Seniority (if present) but were not permitted to be Shipp'd when a Place man was ready to take his Turn, except in Scotch Coals, and Ships call'd Cochells and Remnants; and these Deponents say, that when any Place-man was sick and superannuated, it was the constant Practice to allow another Under-meter to Work in his Turn at part Pay; and if a Place-man would take the said Work, he was allow'd to do it before a Man at large; and when any Coal-meter dyed his Widow was allow'd two or three Ships, or more (according to her Circumstances) to be Work'd at Half-pay; and these Deponents say, when they were young Men they have wrought several Ships as abovemention'd at the Rates aforesaid, and that the Earnings of the young Men were usually so inconsiderable as not to be worth Attendance at the Coal-Office, but for the Hopes and Expectation of better Work and Support in their old Age. And these Deponents say, That they have been inform'd from divers ancient Meters, that the Usages and Customs abovemention'd were the Usages and Practices of the said Coal-Office during all their time. And this Deponent Original Imms for himself saith, that upwards of a Year since, William Watson a Clerk to the Master-meters came to this Deponent at his House in Burr-street, and told this Deponent, the Masters had been so kind as to send this Deponent Fifty Shillings, if he would sign the Book he had brought with him, and give the Masters
E a Receipt

a Receipt in full of all Accounts; and this Deponent (then having his Eye-sight, tho' now he is Blind) did desire to see the said Book and Receipt, but the said Watson reply'd, 'twas no matter to see it, upon which this Deponent Imms told the said Watson he would take three Days time to consider of it, for that he had a great deal of Money due to him (which at that time he believes was One hundred and twenty Pounds) and if this Deponent should give away his Right, that his Children would be bound to Curse him, and at the End of the said three Days came again to this Deponent, the said Watson, to know this Deponent's Resolution; and this Deponent then told the said Watson he had consider'd the same, and would not sign the Book, and give away his Birthright for a Mess of Pottage; but the said Watson then told this Deponent, it would be worse for this Deponent, for the Masters would take away his Deputy from Working for this Deponent, and that this Deponent would not live to see an End of the Cause (meaning the Suit in the Court of Exchequer, about Recovery of the Crown-Allowance to the Under-meters) for that the said Master-meters would keep the said Under-meters out of their Money two or three Years, and would go to Law with them, with their own Money, after which this Deponent went to the Coal-Office and applied unto the Master-meters, that a Deputy might continue to Work for him as usual; but the said Masters reply'd, this Deponent was Purse-proud, and would not take the Fifty Shillings they had sent him, and therefore no Deputy should Work for him. And this Deponent saith, That since that time, no Person hath been permitted to Work for him till lately One Ship has been wrought for him. And this Deponent Thomas Townsend for himself saith, That about a Year since, William Watson a Clerk to the Coal-meters, came to this Deponent and requir'd him for Fifty Shillings to sign a general Discharge to the Master-meters, and because this Deponent refused so to do (for that as this Deponent believes, there was One hundred and twenty Pounds due to this Deponent from the Master-meters) he the said William Watson told this Deponent he had better accept the same, and that this Deponent should be turn'd out of Office, and no Person suffer'd to Work for this Deponent as usual, and did use many other threatening Words to this Deponent; and since that time this Deponent's Deputy who used to Work for this Deponent has been remov'd, and this Deponent depriv'd of the Benefit of the said Work as usual, except One Ship lately. And both these Deponents have been credibly inform'd, that several other of the Under-meters have been threaten'd and turn'd out of their Work, for refusing to sign a Paper to discharge the said Principal Coal-meters, and that divers of them thro' fear of being ruin'd, have been forced or frighten'd to sign such Paper.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

William Ashhurst.

The Mark of
Original O Imms.
Thomas Townsend.

Robert

Robert Rogers maketh Oath; That he this Deponent did some time Num. 8.
 lodge at the House of Joseph Melin, where William Fox also
 lodged, and saith, That the said William Fox died about a Week since;
 and was Non Compos Mentis for two or three Years before his Decease;
 and about a Year since, Benjamin Melin told this Deponent, that the
 Master-meters had sent the said William Fox Fifty Shillings; and that
 he the said Benjamin Melin, by Direction of his Father, Joseph Me-
 lin, had guided the Hand of the said William Fox to a Paper, which
 for the said Fifty Shillings, did fully discharge the said Master-meters of
 all Accounts; and this Deponent saith, that he took occasion one Day to
 reprove the said Joseph Melin for the said unjust Practice, and the said
 Joseph Melin denying the same, this Deponent did call the said Benja-
 min Melin into the Room, where this Deponent and the said Joseph
 Melin had the said Dispute; and the said Benjamin Melin then also
 confessing the same, the said Joseph Melin then reproach'd his said Son,
 and call'd him Fool for making the said Confession; and this Deponent
 also saith, that the said Benjamin Melin also told this Deponent, that
 his said Father had been made a First-man among the Under-meters, and
 that Joseph Melin, another Son of the said Joseph Melin Senior, had
 been made a Supernumerary-meter for the said Service done the said Ma-
 ster-meters.

Jurat. 9 die Martij, 1713.
 Coram me,

Rob. Rogers.

William Ashburst.

Edmond Shelton maketh Oath, That he has been an Under-meter Num. 9.
 of Coals 17 or 18 Years, or thereabouts, and is now of the Third
 Class, but hath not been of late permitted to Work in his Turn and Class,
 and this Deponent did pay unto Stephen Wickens when he was admit-
 ted into the Fourth Class one Guinea, and also one Guinea more when he
 was admitted into the Third Class; and this Deponent saith, that he at-
 tending one Morning at the Coal-Office, the said Wickens beckon'd this
 Deponent to come into the Coal-Office, where this Deponent found Wil-
 liam Sheppard a Master-meter, who told this Deponent, the said Wic-
 kens had a more particular Respect for this Deponent than for other
 Men, and therefore told this Deponent he would put Three Pounds into
 this Deponent's Pocket, viz. Thirty Shillings in Money, and a Ship of
 Thirty Shillings, but that the Deponent had sign'd a Paper to give the
 Masters a great deal of Trouble; but this Deponent saith, that he this
 Deponent suddenly replying, that he would not for the said Thirty Shillings
 sign any Paper of Discharge to the Master-meters, the said Sheppard bid
 this Deponent be gone, and said he should never be ask'd any more, upon
 which this Deponent went out of the said Office, but did not obtain the
 said Thirty Shillings or the said Ship; and this Deponent also saith, that
 the said Sheppard then told this Deponent, that the Master-meters agreed
 with

with some Men for an Half-peny per Chaldron, and if they would give this Deponent no more how would he help himself.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Edm. Shellton.

William Ashburst.

Num. 10.

EDward Fulke maketh Oath, That he this Deponent is an Under-meter of the Second Class of Coal-meters, commonly call'd a Second-man, but hath not been permitted of late to Work in his Turn and Course, and saith, that Stephen Wickens hath at two several times exacted of this Deponent a Guinea each time, and at several other times several Sums of Money, besides several Sacks of Coals; and this Deponent saith, that Thomas Walker told this Deponent he was in the Black Book, for omitting to give the said Wickens a Sack of Coals, and order'd this Deponent to give him Two Sacks the next time; and the said Wickens, upon Discourse with this Deponent, for not giving him Money after this Deponent had wrought Two or Three good Ships, told this Deponent, that if this Deponent would Caw the said Wickens, he the said Wickens would Caw this Deponent.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Edw. Fulke.

William Ashburst.

Num. 11.

Joseph Evans maketh Oath, That he this Deponent is the Third Class of Under-meters of Coals, but of late hath not been permitted to take his Turn and Course of Business as usual; and this Deponent saith, that when he was admitted to the Fourth Class he paid Stephen Wickens One Guinea, and also One Guinea more when he was admitted to the Third Class; and this Deponent saith, that the said Wickens beckon'd this Deponent to come into the Office, where this Deponent found William Sheppard a Master-meter, which said William Sheppard told this Deponent that Wickens had a Respect for this Deponent, and therefore he would pay this Deponent Thirty Shillings, and also give him a Ship of Thirty Shillings, if he would sign a Paper (then tender'd to the Deponent) purporting a full Discharge to the Master-meters; but this Deponent refusing to sign the said Paper, he had not the said Ship, nor did he receive the said Thirty Shillings; and this Deponent did see the Name William Fox amongst other Names subscribed to the said Paper abovementioned, but the Writing thereof not like the usual Hand-writing of the said William Fox.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Joseph Evans.

William Ashburst.

John

[21]
John Breadsell maketh Oath, That Stephen Wickens demanding Num. 12.
of this Deponent (being an Under-meter) a Guinea, he made Complaint thereof to Sir Samuel Ongley, but the said Sir Samuel Ongley commanded this Deponent to give Wickens the said Guinea, and accordingly the said Wickens deducted the same out of this Deponent's Money at two several times, and hath several times deducted several Sums of Money out of this Deponent's Pay; and this Deponent saith, he is of the Third Class of Under-meters, but hath not been permitted of late to take his Turn and Course of Business as usual.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

William Ashhurst.

John Breadsell.

John Hubbard maketh Oath, That he this Deponent is of the Third Num. 13.
Class of Under-meters of Coals, but of late has not been permitted to Work in his said Class and Turn; and this Deponent saith, that he being Shipped on Board a Coal-ship call'd the Mary of Sunderland, and some Difference arising between this Deponent and the Master of the said Ship, by reason this Deponent would not connive at short Measure, in permitting part of the Coals to be dropt again into the Coal-ship, from whence they had been measured; the said Master took Boat and went away, and soon after this Deponent, by Order of Wickens, was remov'd from the said Ship, and another Meter sent in his room.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

William Ashhurst.

John Hubbard.

William Gable maketh Oath, That he is of the Second Class of Under- Num. 14.
meters of Coals, but hath not of late been permitted to take his Turn and Course of Business as usual in delivering of Coal-ships; and this Deponent saith, that Stephen Wickens hath at three several times exacted of this Deponent a Guinea each time, besides several odd Sums which he deducted out of this Deponent's Labour, and when this Deponent complain'd thereof to Robert Walker, a Master-meter, and desir'd that Wickens might return the said Money, he the said Robert Walker bid this Deponent get the same how he could; and this Deponent saith, that he being Shipped on Board a Coal-ship, call'd the Buck, was discharged from the said Ship before he had finish'd the same; and this Deponent going to the said Wickens at the Coal-Office to demand wherefore this Deponent was taken from his said Labour, before he had finish'd the same, he the said Wickens did very much abuse this Deponent, calling this Deponent Blockhead, but he would not satisfy this Deponent, wherefore he was hindred of his said Work; and this Deponent saith, that he this Deponent for about a Year since hath been remov'd from his Office of Under-
F meter,

[22]

meter, and has not done any Work in Coals since that time, tho' he hath daily attended the Coal-Office.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

William Gable.

William Ashburst.

Num. 15.

William Dobson maketh Oath, That he this Deponent hath been an Under-meter of Coals for about 25 Years last past, and saith, that during all that time, till lately, it hath been the usual Method to Work according to Class and Seniority, and for the Supernumeraries to Work at Half-pay for the Aged and Infirm Under-meters; and this Deponent when a Supernumerary hath done the like Work for those that were Sick and Aged in his Time; and that this Deponent hath also done the like Work for divers Widows of deceased Under-meters; and this Deponent saith, that Stephen Wickens, Clerk to the Master-meters did exact of this Deponent Four Guineas for his Admission into the Four Classes, great part of which he deducted at several times out of this Deponent's Labour; and the said Stephen Wickens did oblige this Deponent to give him a pair of Silk-stockings, besides Money and Goods at other times; and this Deponent saith, that this Deponent hath several times seen the Labourers strike Coals off the Vatt, which this Deponent hath filled up again; and this Deponent hath several times acquainted the said Wickens with the said unjust Practices, but could never get any Redress of the said Grievances, but the said Wickens told this Deponent, that he this Deponent was a Trouble to the said Coal-Office; and this Deponent saith, that William Watson another Clerk at the said Coal Office did threaten this Deponent, that Mr. Child a Master meter would turn this Deponent out of his Office of Under-meter, unless this Deponent would do as other Men had done, and take Fifty Shillings, and give a Discharge to the Master-meters; upon which this Deponent said he would trust to Providence, but the said Watson reply'd, Do you think Providence will help you? And this Deponent believes, that at the Time he had the said Discourse with Watson, there was upwards of Seventy Pounds due to this Deponent out of the Crown Allowance for Metage of Coals; and this Deponent saith, that the usual way was for the Under-meters to receive the Metage-money of Masters of the Ships or their Crimps, and to pay the same into the Office, first deducting their own Allowance of one Penny per Chaldron, and two Pence per Ton, but of late the Masters of Ships have paid the said Metage-money into the Office; and this Deponent and other the said Under-meters are oblig'd to attend several Weeks before they can get Payment of their said Allowance; and this Deponent saith, that for about a Year last past the said Wickens has deducted and detain'd from this Deponent, and other the Under-meters, the Clearances of Ships which they used to keep themselves as a Discharge of their Labour.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

William Dobson.

William Ashburst.

Hum-

Humphrey Cowell maketh Oath, That he this Deponent hath been Num. 16.
 an Under-meter of Coals for about 24 Years, and is now of the
 Second Class of Under-meters, but of late hath not been permitted to
 Work according to his Class and Turn; and this Deponent saith, when he
 was first made a Supernumerary, 'twas usual for the Supernumeraries to
 Work for Superannuated or Sick Under-meters at Half-pay, and this
 Deponent hath so Worked at Half-pay while he was a Supernumerary;
 and this Deponent saith, that Stephen Wickens demanded of this De-
 ponent at two several Times a Guinea each time, telling this Deponent
 'twas his due, and this Deponent paid the same accordingly, and also a
 Sack of Coals every Year; and this Deponent saith, that he has been late-
 ly suspended or removed from his Office, because he would not take a Turn
 of Business contrary to his Course in Obedience to a late Order of Sir Wil-
 liam Ashhurst, Alderman of Billingsgate Ward; and this Deponent
 saith, that sometime in December, 1712. Mr. Kipling a Master-meter
 quarrell'd with this Deponent, and chid him very much, for filling the
 Vatts of Coals, telling this Deponent he over-filled the same.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
 Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Humph. Cowell.

William Ashhurst.

Edward Collis maketh Oath, That he this Deponent is a Supernu- Num. 17.
 merary Under-meter, and hath usually Worked for Superannuated
 and Sick Under-meters at Half-pay; and this Deponent saith, he very
 well knows, that Stephen Wickens takes upon him to Ship Under-meters
 without a Permit first obtain'd from the Lord Mayor, or Commissioners of
 the Customs; and this Deponent also saith, that William Watson ano-
 ther Clerk belonging to the Coal-Office Ship'd this Deponent on Board a
 Coal-Ship at four a-Clock one Morning, before there was any Permit, ei-
 ther from the Cocket-Office or Custom-House.

Jurat. Nono die Martij, Anno
 Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Edward Collis.

William Ashhurst.

Nathaniel Freeman maketh Oath, That for 11 or 12 Years past, Num. 18.
 he this Deponent has been an Under-meter of Coals, and during
 all that time hath behaved himself honestly and faithfully in his Employ;
 and this Deponent saith, that between two and three Years since, he this
 Deponent was assaulted by one Cook a Master of a Coal-Ship, whilst he was
 in the Execution of his Office, and sometime after, this Deponent did
 cause an Indictment to be exhibited against the said Cook, but the Bill was
 found Ignoramus; and sometime since this Deponent was called into the
 Coal-Office, and Thomas Walker a Master-meter question'd this Depo-
 nent about his attempting to Indict the said Cook, and bid this Depo-
 nent go and beg his Pardon for it; which this Deponent refusing to do, he
 was

was immediately suspended from his Employment; and about three Months afterwards this Deponent was again called into the said Coal-Office, and the said Thomas Walker asked this Deponent, if he had begged the said Cook's Pardon, or if he would beg his Pardon, to which this Deponent answering, That he would not do it, having given no just occasion of Offence; this Deponent was thereupon told by the Master-meters then present, that he was dismissed from his Employment, and since that time this Deponent hath not been permitted to Work in Coals, tho' he hath generally attended the said Office and demanded his Labour, and particularly when he hath observ'd Meters to be wanting by the Complaints of Masters of Ships and their Crimps; and this Deponent further saith, that his said Suspension and Dismission from his Employ of Under-meter in Coals, was since he with others of his Mates, appear'd against the said Master-meters for the Recovery of their Share of the Allowance given by the Crown for their Encouragement in the just discharge of their Duty.

Jurat. Sexto decimo die Martij, Anno
Dom. 1713. Coram me,

Nathaniel Freeman.

William Ashhurst.

William Ashhurst.



Printed by John Barber, Printer to the Honourable City
of LONDON, 1714.

